

New Hampshire Special Education Program Approval Evaluation Report

Adult Learning Center Clearway Alternative High School

Final Report

June 3, 1998

**Evaluation Conducted on
April 14-15, 1998**

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Table of Contents

- I. Introduction
- II. Status of Corrective Actions from Previous Program Approval Visit
- III. Issues of Significance
- IV. Citations to the New Hampshire Standards for the Education of Students with Disabilities, Adopted October 1996
(Commendations, Citations, and Suggestions for each program)

Note: It should be noted that suggestions are not considered corrective actions and therefore are given as technical assistance. The private facility is not mandated to implement them.

New Hampshire Special Education Program Approval Summary Evaluation Report

Adult Learning Center

I. INTRODUCTION:

A New Hampshire Special Education Program Approval visit was conducted at the Adult Learning Center, Clearway Program. The Program Approval team met on, April 14-15, 1998, in order to review the status of Special Education services being provided to eligible students.

Activities related to this evaluation included the close review of all the application materials that were submitted by the school and a check of teaching certifications of special education personnel. In addition, interviews were held with the Education Coordinator, special education teachers, regular education teachers, counselors, parents and related service personnel as availability permitted. The team also randomly inspected and reviewed student files from the school. Throughout the visit the team had full cooperation from the school personnel, which was greatly appreciated.

The report that you are about to read represents the consensus of all the members of the visiting team. Please keep in mind that this is a "report for exception", meaning that only exceptions to the NH State Standards have been addressed. If a component is not mentioned, that does not mean that the team did not review it; it just means that there were no exceptions to the Standards found in that particular area.

II. STATUS OF PREVIOUS PROGRAM APPROVAL: *Conducted on November 8, 1992*

Since the monitoring visit of 1992 the Clearway program has continued to provide needed services for students with disabilities and at-risk adolescents through a GED based program. However, significant issues noted in the report of 1992 have not been adequately addressed. Clearway and sending school districts have not satisfactorily dealt with providing essential educational documentation for each student, transition plans for students ages 16 –21, curricula offerings which guarantee equal access to the New Hampshire minimum education and the granting of credits toward a high school diploma.

III. ISSUES OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The lack of progress concerning the issues noted in 1992 appear to be the result of inadequate numbers of certified special education staff, noncompetitive wages for educators, inadequate materials and equipment for teaching /learning and firm agreements with sending districts for awarding diploma credits for academic work completed at Clearway. Examples of minimum curricula offerings that are not available to students at Clearway include computer/technology and physical education. Individual education plans do not include transportation costs for job shadowing as part of students' career awareness and vocational development. Students classified as learning disabled do not have access to the services of a certified learning disabilities teacher. The monitoring team unanimously agreed these deficiencies must be resolved with dispatch. The provision of equal educational opportunities for students with disabilities is a responsibility for which school

districts and private providers must remain constantly vigilant. The Department of Education will continue to monitor the provision of services for students with disabilities at the Clearway Program to ensure that that these requirements are corrected and sustained.

IV. COMMENDATIONS, CITATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS:

COMMENDATIONS:

- There is great rapport between the educational staff and students.
- The staff are dedicated, caring, student centered and focused on the particular needs of each student.
- The facility is inviting and provides a pleasant environment for education.
- Staff work collaboratively in planning, teaching and evaluating progress for each student.
- The counseling and social services provided to students is excellent.
- Parents are satisfied that the program is meeting the students needs.
- The behavior management program is outstanding.
- Parents and students respect staff and have confidence in their interest and concern for each student.
- School district representatives consider Clearway an excellent placement for certain students.
- The psychological climate of the program is positive and excludes negative consequences as a means of modifying behavior.
- Staff are very involved with students in academic and non-academic activities. Time is devoted to helping students process personal and group issues in a positive manner.
- Clearway's application and supporting materials were thorough and readily accessible.
- Clearway's Strategic Plan 1997-2002 is comprehensive and future oriented. Many of the goals contained in the plan confirmed the citations noted by the compliance monitoring team.

CITATIONS: (in numerical order)

<u>Ed # 1102.11(n)</u>	Transportation costs for job shadowing, career awareness and vocational development are not included as part of individual education plans.
<u>Ed # 1102.35</u>	1 file: the transition statement does not specify how determination of unneeded services is made. 1 file: transition statement not signed by LEA representative.
<u>Ed # 1103.06</u>	1 file: contained no evidence of mid-year review or annual evaluation of progress.
<u>Ed # 1107.08</u>	1 file: contained no evidence of classroom observation for LD student.

CITATIONS: Contd.

<u>Ed # 1109.01</u>	1 file: no evidence of short-term objectives in IEP. 1 file: IEP does not contain current level of performance. 2 files: IEP does not specify the extent of participation in regular ed. classroom. 3 files: IEP does not specify the individuals responsible for implementing the IEP. 1 file: IEP does not include vocational education component. 2 files: IEP does not include statement of transportation. 3 files: IEP does not indicate short-term objectives, evaluation criteria, procedures and evaluation schedules on an annual basis. 2 files: length of school day included in IEP inconsistent with actual program.
<u>Ed # 1109.03(a,b,d)</u>	2 files: unable to determined if the IEP development team was appropriate. 1 file: no evidence that regular education teacher present.
<u>Ed # 1109.06(c)</u>	1 file: unable to determine if private school representative was present for IEP development.
<u>Ed # 1113.01</u>	2 files did not contain written evidence of vocational evaluation.
<u>Ed # 1117.08</u>	1 file: contain LD report that was not signed by LEA representative, regular education teacher or LD certified individual.
<u>Ed # 1119.08</u>	The issue of credits toward a high school diploma for work completed at Clearway must be resolved in compliance with the equal opportunity requirement.
<u>Ed # 1119.10</u>	The length of the school day needs to be re-configured to include time for counseling/processing, tutoring, community service, career awareness/vocational development and computer instruction.
<u>Ed # 1123.05</u>	1 file: contained no evidence that parents received annual notification of rights.
<u>Ed # 1125.03</u>	1 file: contained no evidence of written prior notice sent to parents.
<u>Ed # 1125.04</u>	2 files: did not contain written consent to evaluate.
<u>Ed # 1133.04</u>	The policy manual needs a clear statement regarding compliance with IDEA and RSA186-C.
<u>Ed # 1133.05(g)</u>	3 files: lesson plans do not reflect IEP program goals. Teacher did not have copy of students IEP.
<u>Ed # 1133.06</u>	1 file: progress information contained in file was incomplete.

CITATIONS: Contd.

<u>Ed # 1133.08(a)</u>	Not all staff have appropriate NH certification. This includes administrative instructional and related service personnel.
<u>Ed # 1133.13</u>	The fence on the driveway-side of the preschool playground is in need of repair.
<u>Ed # 1133.18</u>	1 file: contained no evidence of written parental consent for photography.
<u>34CFR 300.037</u>	3 files: no evidence that student participates regularly in physical ed. program with certified instructor offered.

SUGGESTIONS:

None

ADDENDUM

JAMES O. MONITORING PROGRAM

Student File Review

Case Study Document

Reimbursement Claim Form

Case Study Addendum Form

<p style="text-align: center;">ADDENDUM JAMES O. MONITORING PROGRAM</p>

CITATIONS: **None**

Reported and verified by the NH Department of Education that there are no James O' students currently enrolled at Clearway.

SUGGESTIONS: **None**